

REMARKS

In the Office Action of July 3, 2007, the Examiner rejected claims 34, 35, 38-45, 47-50, 52-55, and 58-63 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hakoziaki (U.S. Patent No. 6,234,845), rejected claims 36, 37, 46, 56, and 57 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hakoziaki in view of Horie (U.S. Patent No. 6,231,360). Applicants respectfully traverse all rejections in the Office Action and request reconsideration and allowance of pending claims 34-63.

Amendments to the Claims

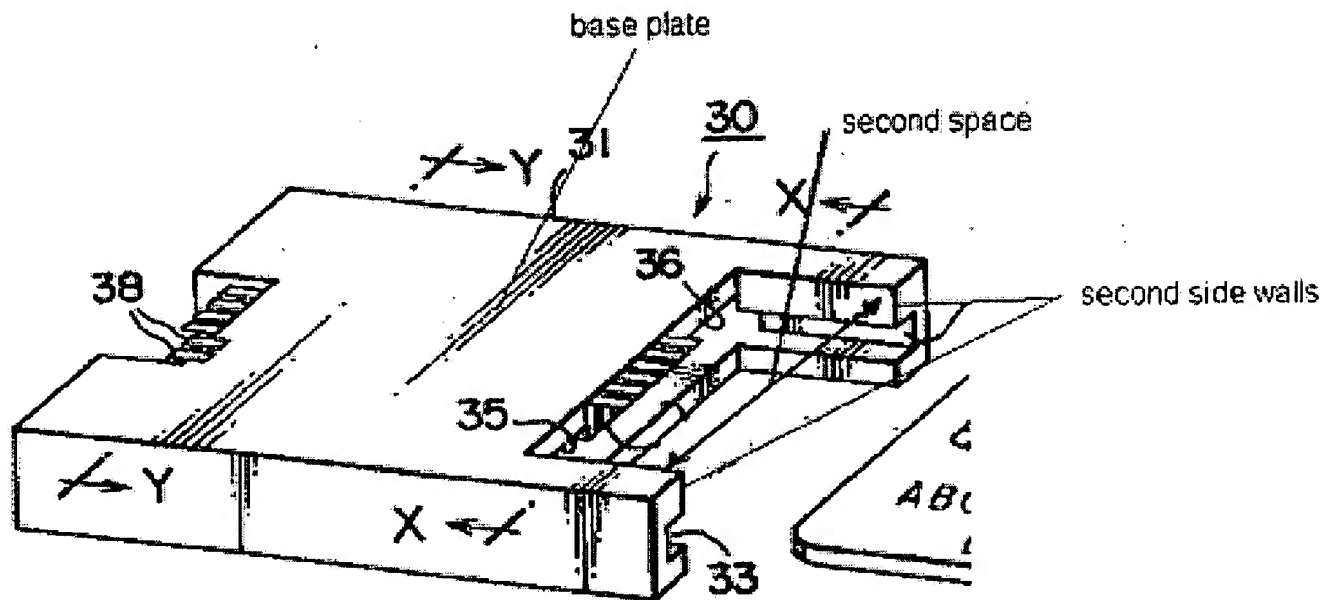
By this amendment, Applicants have amended claims 34 and 54 to recite “recessed portions formed on a bottom surface of the first card and separated from each other by a partition wall, and contact pads provided in the recessed positions” and “contact terminals arranged on the base plate, at an interval of space capable of accommodating the partition wall of the first card.” The application supports this amendment, for example, at page 3, lines 3-6 and page 8, lines 4-12, of the specification, as well as in Figures 8 and 18. The term “step portions” has also been removed from claim 54.

Claims 34-63 are allowable over the applied references

Claims 34 and 54 of the Application each recite a “second space defined by the second side walls ... the second space being between the first space and the base plate” wherein “no portion of the base plate extends into the second space.” Thus, the claims require that the second space (1) be defined by the second side walls, (2) be located between the base plate and the first space, and (3) include no portion of the base plate. In particular, the claimed second space must be both defined by the second

side walls and located between the base plate and the first space. The applied references fail to disclose such a second space.

In the Office Action, the Examiner argues that Figure 1 of Hakozaiki discloses a second space defined by alleged second side walls and that the second space is “between the first space and the base plate (as seen from the front in a vertical direction, see Fig. 3).” The Office Action includes an annotated version of Figure 1 of Hakozaiki, reproduced below, illustrating the alleged second space on which the Examiner relies. Applicants respectfully disagree with the characterization of Hakozaiki found in the Office Action.

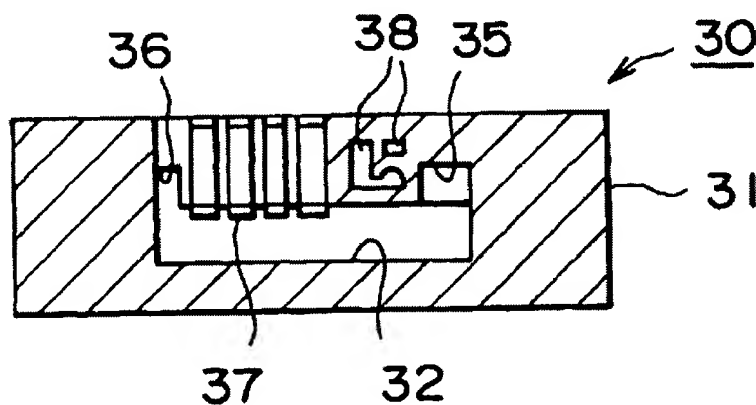


Hakozaki Figure 1 (As Annotated by Examiner)

The Examiner contends that a space located above grooves 33, 34 of Hakozaiki corresponds to the second space required by claims 34 and 54. This space, however, rests in front of the alleged base plate. (See annotated Fig. 1, above.) The alleged second space does not lie “between” the alleged base plate and the alleged first space.

which is defined by alleged first side walls 33, 34, the alleged upper wall, and the alleged lower wall. Instead, as seen in annotated Fig. 1 of Hakoziaki above, the alleged second space lies above the alleged first space and in front of the alleged base plate, not between these two features.

FIG. 3



Hakoziaki Figure 3

The Examiner asserts that the second space is “between the first space and the base plate (as seen from the front in a vertical direction, see Fig. 3).” This is not so. Figure 3 of Hakoziaki illustrates “a sectional view taken along a line Y—Y in FIG. 1 [of Hakoziaki].” (Hakoziaki at col. 4, l. 55-56.) Comparing Figure 3 of Hakoziaki with the annotated version of Figure 1 of Hakoziaki supplied by the Examiner reveals that the only portion of the alleged second space on which the Examiner relies that is visible in Figure 3 is contained in grooves 35 and 36.

As explained in previous responses, grooves 35 and 36 of Hakoziaki cannot be part of a space corresponding to the second space recited in claims 34 and 54. Claims

As explained in previous responses, grooves 35 and 36 of Hakoziaki cannot be part of a space corresponding to the second space recited in claims 34 and 54. Claims 34 and 54 of the Applicants' application each require that the claimed second space be "defined by the second side walls" and that "no portion of the base plate extends into the second space." As illustrated in Figures 2 and 3 of Hakoziaki, however, a portion of the alleged base plate (seen at the top of the figures) extends downward between the alleged second sidewalls. This portion of the alleged base plate, which holds contact pin array 37, rests directly between the alleged sidewalls.

Accordingly, in Hakoziaki, a portion of the base plate extends into any space "defined by the second side walls" that is also located "between the base plate and the first space." For at least this reason, claims 34 and 54 are allowable over Hakoziaki.

Horie does not teach or suggest the claimed second space and base plate, and the Examiner does not rely on Horie for such teachings. Horie, consequently, fails to overcome the above-noted deficiencies of Hakoziaki.

Moreover, neither Hakoziaki nor Horie describe contact terminals arranged "at an interval of space capable of accommodating the partition wall of the first card," as recited in amended claims 34 and 54. Indeed, neither of these references describe first and second cards, let alone the configuration of the card connectors recited in the claims of this application.

Because the Hakoziaki and Horie, taken alone or together, do not teach or suggest all elements of claims 34 and 54, these claims are allowable over the applied references. Claims 35-33 and 55-63 are allowable at least due to their respective dependence from claims 34 and 54.

Patentability over Copending Applications and Patents Issued Therefrom

For the Office's convenience, the Applicants identify in Table 1 below certain copending applications, including filing date, assignment, and inventor information.

Applicant provides herewith Exhibit 1, which contains the currently pending claims of the listed applications. Applicant submits these claims for the Office's convenience in evaluating any potential issues regarding statutory or obviousness-type double patenting.

Attorney Docket No.	U.S. Patent Application No.	U.S. Filing Date/ 371 (c) Date	First Named Inventor	Title	Assignment Recorded (Reel, Frame, Date)	Publication, Date
04208.0234-00000	11/393,860	March 31, 2006	Shigeru SATO	IP CARD-CONNECTOR	Reel: 017744, Frame: 0885, on March 31, 2006	U.S. Published Application No. US 2006 0219785 A1 Dated: October 5, 2006
04208.0212-00000	11/038,274	January 21, 2005	Osamu SHIMIZU	CARD CONNECTOR FOR AN ELECTRONIC DEVICE AND A CONTACT USED THEREIN	Reel: 016197, Frame: 0534, on January 21, 2005	U.S. Patent No. 7,182,645 Dated: February 27, 2007

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants submit that the claimed invention is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious in view of the prior art references cited against this application. Applicants therefore request reconsideration and reexamination of the application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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